

Johnson Home
Wanauaugustine, San Augustine County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-242

HABS
TEX
203-5AUG
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Tex 2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Officer
4701 Main Street, Houston, Texas

HABS
TEX
203-SAUG
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JOHNSON HOME
San Augustine, San Augustine County, Texas.

Owner Mrs. W. H. Teal (Who is now Mrs. Johnson)

Date of Erection 1850

Architect None

Builder A. Houston

Present Condition Excellent

Number of Stories Two stories

Other Existing Records None

Materials of Construction Frame

Additional Data Ref: Rockefeller Foundation U. of T.
Austin, Texas.

Mrs. Johnson is the widow of W. H. Teal, a descendent of Henry Teal. Henry Teal was a spy during the Texas Revolution and rendered valuable service to Texas. The Teal family have been leaders politically and socially in San Augustine for a hundred years or more.

Mr. Johnson came to San Augustine from Virginia shortly after the Revolution and when the town was incorporated in 1837 he was elected its first mayor. He was again the first mayor of the town when it was reincorporated after the war between the states and held the office for several years. Mr. Johnson had a keen intellect and a remarkable memory of men, and especially of handwriting which made his testimony often very much sought for in his later years. He lived in several houses at different times. Always close to the business section of the town, and being of a restless disposition he used frequently to walk through the streets late at night to see if every thing was all right. It is said that in this way, he discovered several fires which might have done considerable damage. In 1842, Mr. Johnson succeeded John Deen as District Clerk of San Augustine County and served until 1844. The main facts of Mr. Johnson's life are from the public records of San Augustine. Details are supplied by G. L. Crockett, the author of Two Centuries in East Texas, who was personally acquainted with Mr. Johnson.

The latter addition of the jig-saw porch have destroyed the beauty of this old home. Originally, it had good lines and nicely spaced openings. The interiors are much the same as when first built. The town has encroached upon the ground which has spoiled its setting.

Rev. Dec. 1 '36 - H.W.